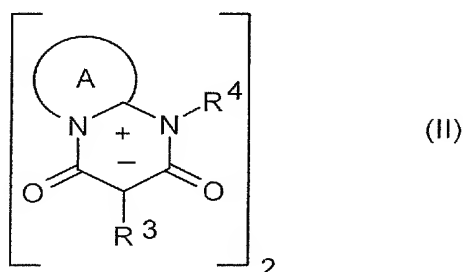


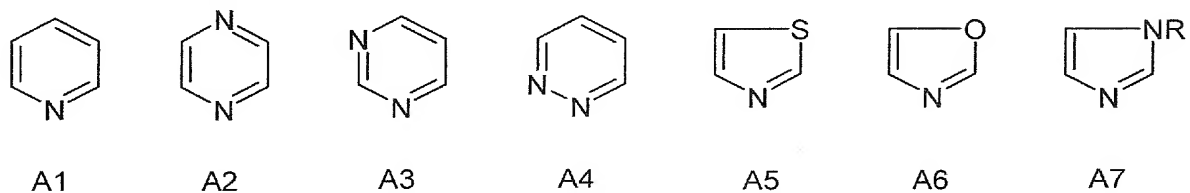
Amendments to the Claims

- 1) (Currently Amended) A dimeric compound of formula (II)



where the two monomeric units are linked either via R^3 or via R^4 ;

the ring A is a five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring of structure A1 to A7



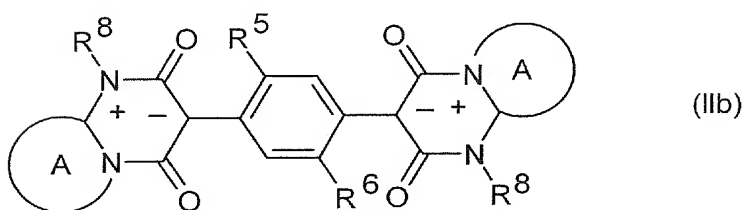
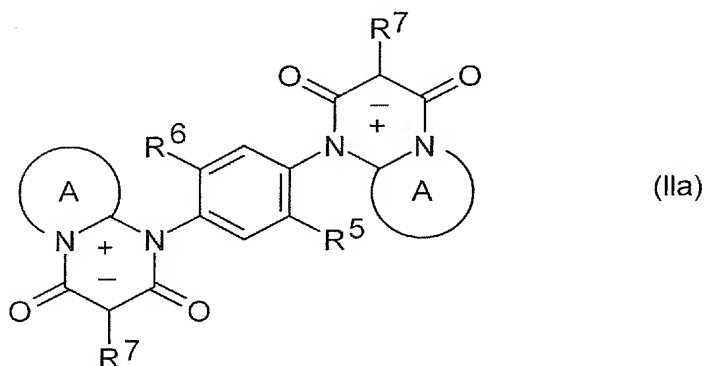
where the rings A1 to A7 are unsubstituted, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or phenyl substituted fused with a benzene ring or a combination thereof,

one of R^3 and R^4 is an unsubstituted phenylene radical or a phenylene radical substituted by one or more of alkyl-, alkoxy- or halogen- substitutions,

the other one of R^3 and R^4 is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_5 - C_6 -cycloalkyl, an unsubstituted phenyl, a phenyl substituted by one or more of alkyl-, alkoxy-, nitro-, phenyl-, alkoxycarbonyl-, dialkylamino-, dialkylaminocarbonyl-, alkylaminocarbonyl-, aminocarbonyl- or halogen-substitutions, benzyl, benzanilide, C_5 - C_6 -cycloalkyl or naphthyl;

or where the NR^4 group combines with the A ring to form a 5- or 6-membered heterocycle optionally fused with a benzene ring, and R^3 is an unsubstituted phenylene or a phenylene substituted by one or more of alkyl-, alkoxy- or halogen-substitutions; and R is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ -alkyl or phenyl.

2) (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein formula (II) is of the formula (IIa) or (IIb)



where

R^5 and R^6 are independently hydrogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ -alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ -alkoxy or halogen;

R^7 and R^8 are $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ -alkyl, $\text{C}_5\text{-C}_6$ -cycloalkyl, a phenyl, benzyl, benzanilide or naphthyl that is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 radicals selected from the

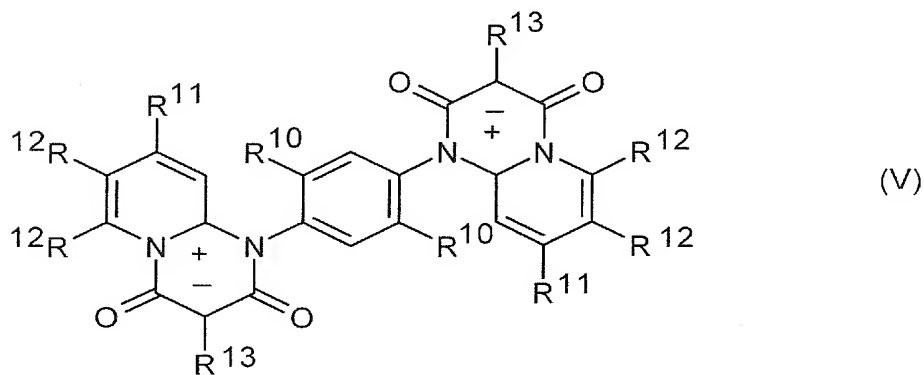
group consisting of C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, nitro, phenyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, di(C₁-C₃-alkyl)amino, di(C₁-C₃-alkyl)aminocarbonyl, (C₁-C₃-alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminocarbonyl and chlorine;

or where the NR⁸ group combines with the A ring to form a 5- or 6-membered heterocycle optionally fused with a benzene ring.

3) (Original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein R⁵ and R⁶ are the same or different and are each hydrogen, methyl or chlorine.

4) (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R³, R⁴, R⁷ and R⁸ is a substituted phenyl radical selected from the group consisting of 1-, 2-, 3-methyl-, ethyl-, methoxy-, ethoxy-, diethylamino-, chloro-, 2,5-dichloro-, 3-chloro-4-methyl-, 3-chloro-4-methoxy- and 4-nitrophenyl.

5) (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein formula (II) is of the formula (V)



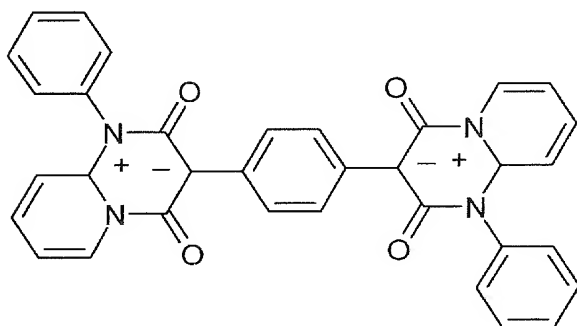
where

R¹⁰ is hydrogen, methyl or chlorine,

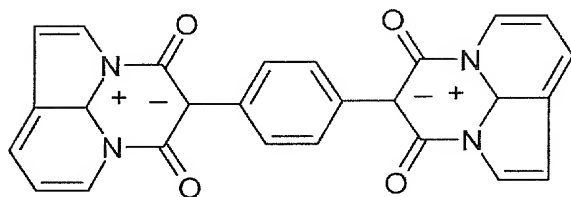
R¹¹ is hydrogen or methyl,

R^{12} is hydrogen, or two adjacent R^{12} radicals together are a divalent C_4H_4 radical, and
 R^{13} is methyl or phenyl.

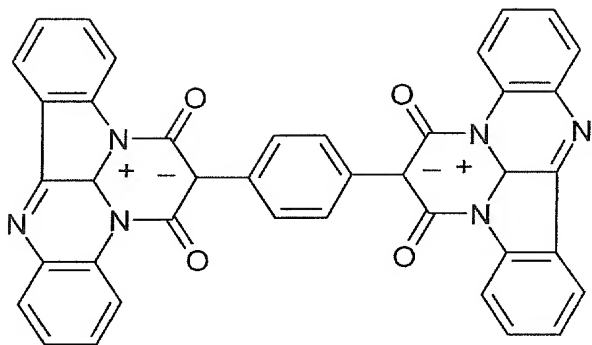
6) (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein formula (II) is of the formula (11), (12), (13) or (14)



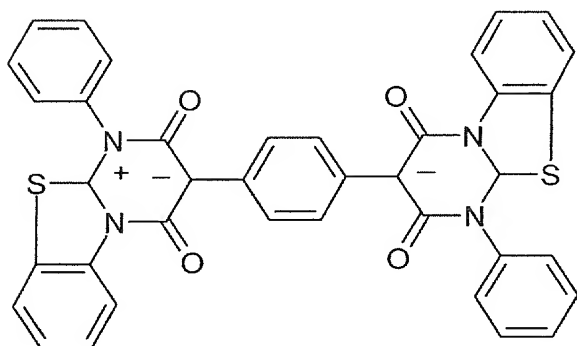
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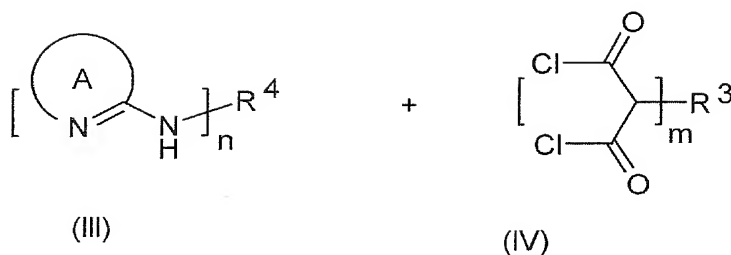


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- 7) (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 1, comprising the step of condensing either
- (a) one equivalent of the compound of formula (III) where n is 2 with about two equivalents of the compound of formula (IV) where m is 1; or
 - (b) one equivalent of the compound of formula (IV) where m is 2 with about two equivalents of the compound of formula (III) where n is 1,



8) (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 7, wherein the condensing is effected in the presence of a base, wherein the base is triethylamine, pyridine, picoline, N-methylimidazole or alkali metal carbonate.

9) (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 7 wherein the compound of formula (II) is subjected to at least one of fine-dividing operation ~~or solvent treatment~~, wherein the fine-dividing operation is grinding, a a thermal treatment in an aqueous, aqueous-organic or organic medium at temperatures between 40°C and 200°C, optionally under superatmospheric pressure.

10) (Cancelled)

11) (Previously Presented) A composition pigmented by a compound according to claim 1, wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of plastics, resins, coatings, paints, electrophotographic toners, electrophotographic developers, electret materials, color filters, inks, inkjet inks, nonjettable printing inks, and seed.